



April
2015

West Des Moines eNewsletter



Tom Hadden, City Manager

As we welcome spring and look forward to summer, I'm happy to report that West Des Moines is thriving. We were pleased to learn from Standard & Poor's that we will maintain our AAA/Stable credit rating, and that makes us the only City in Iowa with S&P's top rating. This is important because an AAA rating allows the City to obtain lower interest rates for the repayment of debt, and that makes it easier for us to take on projects that make West Des Moines a great place to live and work!

WDM Magazine Spring/Summer magazine

One of the most important ways we communicate with residents is with our popular *WDM Magazine*, which is mailed three times a year to every household in the City. The Spring/Summer 2015 issue

was mailed to residents in March, and it's full of all kinds of information you need to know from solid waste collection rules to fun learning and recreational activities from our Parks Department. It's a publication you'll want to keep handy to make sure you're in the know about key City activities and events.



The 2015 Special Census is almost here

Work continues on the Special Census that we'll be conducting to get an accurate count of our population. Recruitment for Special Census workers has begun, so if you would like to apply for a temporary job as a Census taker (enumerator), visit our website at www.wdm.iowa.gov.

It's absolutely critical that you take a few moments and answer the questions Census workers ask once they begin knocking on doors in our neighborhoods. By law, all the information you share is confidential, and it will help us get additional revenue for road construction and maintenance projects.

So please, tell your family and encourage your friends, neighbors and coworkers to participate. In our community, *everyone counts!*

Connect with us! Wdm.Iowa.Gov



When the Census knocks, please answer your door!

Census takers (called enumerators) will soon be going door-to-door in your neighborhood to collect a few facts about each member of your household for the West Des Moines Special Census.

Why a Special Census?

If Census results show that our population has increased, we'll be eligible to receive additional funds for road construction and maintenance projects.

What questions will they ask?

Census workers will be asking questions such as the name, age, gender and relationship of each person in your household. They also will ask about race and Hispanic origin, and whether you own or rent your home or apartment. All Census workers will carry a U.S. Census Bureau photo ID badge.

Is my information confidential?

Yes! The information you share is confidential, and the law applies whether or not you are a U.S. citizen. No one will ever be asked for other identifying information, such as your Social Security number or checking account/financial information.

So when someone knocks on your door, please cooperate and answer their questions.

In our community, everyone counts!



Temporary Special Census jobs still available

The City of West Moines is recruiting about 300 residents to help with our Special Census.

Temporary jobs are available for Census takers, office staff and supervisors. Visit our website at www.wdm.iowa.gov to fill out our online Special Census Interest Form and the U.S. Census Bureau Application (which you must print and drop off at City Hall, 4200 Mills Civic Pkwy, West Des Moines). Paper copies of both documents also are available at City Hall.

You will be contacted just prior to the Special Census to take a job-related test to determine if you qualify for a Census job. If selected, you will be required to attend a training class and then given a work assignment that lasts approximately 3 to 8 weeks.

Census workers typically are paid \$13 to \$17 per hour, plus mileage and paid training. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age, live within 20 miles of WDM, and willing to work a minimum of 20 hours per week when residents are home, usually during evenings and weekends.

Questions?

Contact McKinlee Ritter, City Manager's Office, (515) 222-3598

Southwest Connector receives best paving project award

The third phase of the “Southwest Connector” project has been named Iowa’s best urban arterials and collectors paving project by the Iowa Concrete Paving Association (ICPA). The award was announced at ICPA’s Blue Ribbon Awards Banquet on February 5 and was presented to the West Des Moines City Council on March 23.

In the fall of each year, ICPA accepts nominations for the best paving projects in the state. Last year, over 250 municipal paving projects were completed in Iowa, and 29 of those projects were nominated across six categories.

Iowa is home to a vibrant concrete paving industry, which makes the annual awards program one of the more prestigious in the nation.

The Southwest Connector project not only received a high overall score, but the project also stood out

due to its complexity. Nominations for ICPA paving awards are judged by the following criteria: quality control, contractor management, complexity, smoothness, safety and general appearance.



Mayor Steven Gaer accepts an award for the top paving project from John Cunningham, Vice President of the Iowa Concrete Paving Association.

Residential Scrap Tire Collection

Saturday, April 18, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Metro Waste Authority is offering West Des Moines a Residential Scrap Tire Collection on **Saturday, April 18, 2015**, from **7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at the West Des Moines Public Works facility located at **560 S. 16th Street**.

Just drive to the last driveway on the east side of S. 16th Street in the cul-de-sac area, and tires will be accepted at the gate.

Each household may drop off a maximum of five tires. Please note that rims must be removed before the tires will be accepted.

This collection does *not* accept:

Scrap tires generated by any business

Farm or tractor tires

Solid tires such as lawnmower, forklift or golf cart tires

Bicycle tires

Underground Electric Cable Replacement

MidAmerican Energy is replacing old underground electric cable to avoid outages and ensure that West Des Moines residents receive safe and reliable electrical service.

Residents in the construction area have received a letter from MidAmerican Energy notifying them that work will begin in April to replace several miles of the primary underground cable that provides electricity to their area. MidAmerican Energy contractors Q3 Contracting, Communication Technologies and Par Electric are working together on the project, which is scheduled for completion in October.

Terry Ousley, Vice President, Customer Satisfaction for MidAmerican Energy, said MidAmerican would communicate regularly with customers so they understand what happening. "We will try to minimize the inconvenience for residents and the community as much as possible," he said.

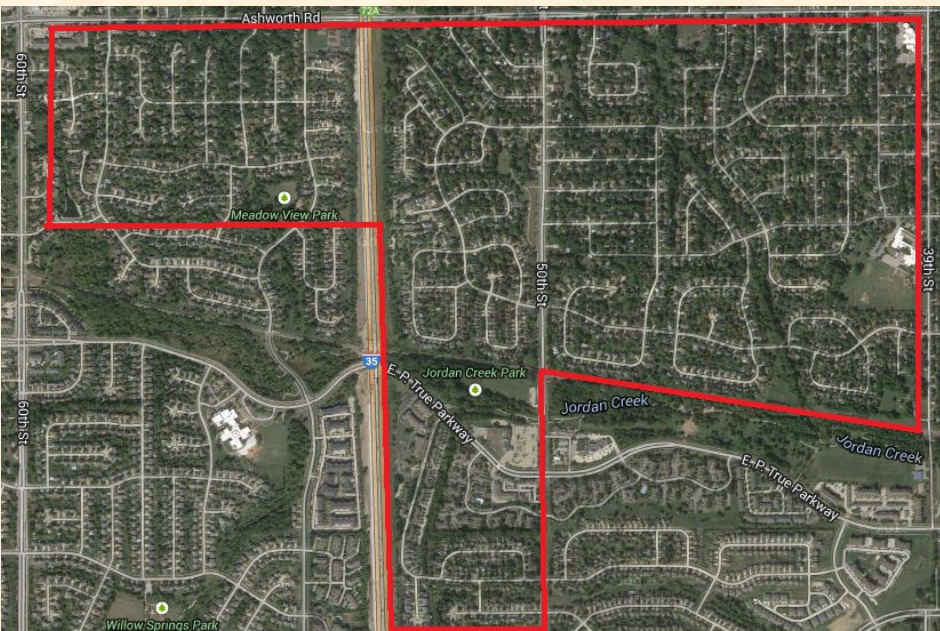
Properties which may be affected by this project have easements in front and/or back yards for the purpose of maintaining utilities. Crews will need access to these easements during the cable replacement work.

As part of the cable replacement process, holes will be dug near equipment and although they will be left open for a period of time, the holes will be protected with flexible fencing. If the work results in alteration to a resident's landscaping, MidAmerican Energy will repair the landscape and restore the property once the cable replacement project has been completed.

If it becomes necessary to temporarily interrupt electric service, MidAmerican Energy or its contractors will notify residents three to five days in advance of the interruption.

Ousley said MidAmerican appreciates customers' patience and understanding during these projects. He added that residents with questions or concerns may contact MidAmerican Energy's Customer Service Department at (888) 427-5632.

See the map below to find out where crews will be working. Work will occur within a T-shaped area south of Ashworth Road. The eastern boarder runs just west of 39th Street and the western boarder is just east of 60th Street.



Here's a few tips to help you move more quickly through the MidAmerican Energy automated phone system:

- Dial: **1-888-427-5632**
- After the automated message that the call may be recorded, **press 4**
- When asked for your 10 digit account number, just say **"I don't have it."**
- Then **press 0.**
- Then **press 1.**

Saturday, April 11, from 8 a.m. to 12:00 (noon)

**Scrap Appliance and Metal Drop-off and
Secure Paper Shredding**

This event is a great opportunity to recycle unwanted items!
West Des Moines residents may bring their scrap appliances or metal
to the gated area at the Public Works facility located at 560 S. 16th Street.

Items that will be accepted include:

Heating & Cooling	Outside/Yard Equipment	Household Items & Appliances	Electronics
Air conditioners (all sizes)	Riding lawn mowers, push mowers	Metal sinks, metal bathtubs, metal bed frames, metal cabinets	Copiers
Water Heaters	Bikes/Tikes	Washers/dryers/stoves	Printers, fax machines
Heat Pumps	Garden tillers	Humidifiers/Dehumidifiers	Calculators
Furnaces	Pool ladders	Refrigerators (no food)	Phones
	Grills (no tanks)	Deep freezers (no food)	Cell phones
	Snow blowers	Microwaves, dishwashers	Phone systems
	Weed Eaters	Vacuums, fans, saws	Computer towers
	Pool heaters	Exercise equipment, electric skillets	Computer servers
	Drills	Garbage disposals	VCRs, DVD players
	Metal chairs	Lead acid batteries	Blu-ray players
	Lawn furniture	Trash compactors	Video gaming systems
		Garage doors & openers	Camcorders, cameras
		Blenders/mixers/toasters/pots/pans	Stereo systems, speakers

Televisions and computer monitors are accepted for a fee:

TV, regular-sized—\$15.00

Console TV—\$30.00

Big Screen TV—\$30.00

Computer monitor—\$15.00

Flat-screen TVs are accepted at no charge.



Don't forget!
***Residents may also
bring paper items for
secure shredding
to this event!***

West Des Moines maintains top AAA bond rating from S&P

Standard & Poor's has announced that the City of West Des Moines will maintain its top AAA/Stable credit rating. West Des Moines is the only city in Iowa with the AAA rating from S&P.

The top rating allows the City to take advantage of lower interest rates for the repayment of debt.

The S&P Report said the top rating reflects their view that West Des Moines has a very strong economy, strong City management and financial policies, and strong budgetary performance and flexibility.

City Manager Tom Hadden said the AAA credit rating is great news for West Des Moines residents. "It speaks to the strength of our management team and the City Council," he said.

Solicitors required to have a permit and photo ID badge

It's that time of year again when solicitors go door-to-door in our community selling a variety of items from special cleaners to magazine subscriptions.

Solicitors must obtain a permit from the City of West Des Moines before they can legally sell items in our neighborhoods. Unfortunately, some organizations bypass this requirement.

If you have concerns or encounter an overly aggressive solicitor, please ask to see their City permit and photo identification badge. If they are unable to prove that they have a permit or you have concerns about their behavior, residents are urged to call Westcom's nonemergency number at 222-3321.

Celebrate National Police Week with us in May!

Bring the kids and join us for our 2015 National Police Week celebration on Wednesday, May 13!

From 5 to 8 p.m., we invite you to visit our exhibits, explore police, fire and medical vehicles, play some games, and enjoy delicious free food provided by Hy-Vee and Famous Dave's.

All activities will take place at the Law Enforcement Center at 250 Mills Civic Parkway.

We'll see you there!



Last May, this youngster received a free bicycle helmet and learned about the importance of bike safety during our celebration.

Human Services receives Prairie Meadows Grant

West Des Moines Human Services has received a \$5,000 grant from Prairie Meadows through its 2015 Community Betterment Grant Program. The Prairie Meadows grant will greatly benefit our Emergency Assistance Program, which is available to households experiencing a crisis such as an eviction notice or utility disconnect.



Just a reminder: The West Des Moines Human Services Department has moved to 139 6th Street.

Clothing Closet needs spring and summer clothing!

With the change of seasons, the Clothing Closet is in need of new or gently-used **spring and summer clothing and shoes**.

The Closet also needs small household items including **towels, blankets, sheets and kitchen items**.

Donations may be dropped off Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 139 6th Street in West Des Moines.

Donation receipts are available. Please call 222-3663 if you have any questions.



Yard Waste Collection Starts this week

Yard waste collection runs weekly from March 30 to November 28, 2015. Residents can dispose of yard waste right from the curb through Metro Waste Authority's Compost It! program. Pick up is on your garbage day with two easy options:

Bags & Stickers

Compost It! Bags

The cost of this bag covers the cost of collection. No sticker is required. Do not exceed 40 lbs. per bag.

Store-brand Bag + Compost It! Sticker

A Compost It! sticker must be attached to a generic bag. The sticker cost covers the cost of collection. It's a good idea to face the sticker toward the street so the hauler can see it.

Compost It! Sticker + Brush Bundles

Attach a Compost It! sticker to each brush bundle and place it next to carts or bags. Bundles cannot exceed 18 inches in diameter or four feet in length.

Cart

A Compost It! cart is on wheels, just like your Curb It! cart, making it a convenient alternative to yard waste bags. Simply wheel it to the curb on garbage day during Compost It! season. The 96-gallon cart can hold the equivalent of three yard waste bags, but you can always use the Bags & Sticker program if your yard waste exceeds the cart's capacity. Consider a cart if you:

- Purchase more than 65 bags a year.
- Garden, bag grass clippings, or don't want to hassle with bags.

Purchase Bags, Stickers & Cart Subscriptions

The cost of the Compost It! bag, sticker and annual cart subscription covers the cost of collection and processing of the material.

Compost It! Bags	\$8.00 for a bundle of five (\$1.60 per bag). Sold at most grocery and hardware stores.
Compost It! Stickers	\$1.25 per sticker. Sold at most grocery and hardware stores.
Cart	\$105 annual subscription; \$1 credit card transaction fee, one time cart purchase \$60 (\$80 with delivery). To enroll, call 222-3600 or renew at www.WhereltShouldGo.com/cartrenewal .



For more information including what is accepted and what is not accepted, call (515) 244-0021 or visit www.WhereltShouldGo.com.

When you changed your clock, did you change your batteries?

The West Des Moines Fire Department is reminding everyone that the transition to daylight savings time is the perfect time to change your smoke detector batteries.

The rule of thumb is to replace your batteries once every year when you set your clocks for daylight savings time. It's a fact that fresh batteries decrease the chances of batteries failing in case of a fire. In addition to changing your

batteries, it's also important to check your smoke detector monthly to ensure that it's working properly.

Statistics show that about 3 out of 5 homes do not have working smoke detectors despite the fact that detectors cut in half the chances of someone dying in a fire.

So take a moment and make sure you change those batteries!



Ice Rescue Training

Firefighters took advantage of the 70 degree weather in March to practice their ice rescue training at Raccoon River Park.

This type of training helps ensure fire crews remain ready to answer calls for help regardless of what the conditions may be. These training opportunities also give our new firefighters the chance to learn new skills and how to maneuver in unpredictable conditions.

Always remember that with warming temperatures and melting snow, ice conditions on bodies of water deteriorate quickly.



2015 Solid Waste Events for WDM Citizens

Annual Spring Cleanup is June 1–5 on your regular trash collection day!

March 30	Yard Waste Pick-Up begins on your normal trash collection day
April 11	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-Off & Paper Shredding, 8 a.m. — Noon, West Des Moines Public Works
April 18	Scrap Tire Drop-Off, 7:30 a.m. — 4 p.m., West Des Moines Public Works
May 21	National Public Works Week Celebration, 4 to 7 p.m., Valley Junction Farmer's Market
June 1 — 5	Annual Spring Cleanup — On your regular trash day. <i>Watch for new details!</i>
June 27	Hazardous Waste Drop-Off, City Hall, 8 a.m. to Noon
Sept. 12	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-Off and Paper Shredding, 8 a.m. to Noon, West Des Moines Public Works
Nov. 28	Yard Waste Pick-Up Ends
Dec. 28 — Jan. 8	Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection

Annual Spring Cleanup (June 1–5) has a new look this year!

In order to reduce the amount of litter in our neighborhoods during the clean-up event, we've changed a few things so that it will be easier for you to keep your yard free of debris.

Garbage limit: You can set out as much as will fit in the bed of one pickup truck.

Weight limit: If it's reasonable that two people could lift an item, then it's accepted.

No bagged/boxed items: Since these items can be put in your garbage cart year-round or collected with a \$1 Extra Trash Sticker, these items will not be collected. This change will help us eliminate litter and the mess scavengers create in your neighborhood.

ACCEPTED ITEMS: Mattresses, couches, end tables, fans, lamps, grills (no propane)

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED: Appliances, building materials, concrete, tires,
yard waste, household hazardous waste

Spring Cleanup is your opportunity to get rid of items that do not fit in your garbage cart. It is available to all West Des Moines residents who are eligible for City provided solid waste collection.